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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Regional Centre for Solar Energy
Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council

Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 20-21 January 1986

LC/NAIROBI

REPORT

A. ORGANIZATION AND ATTENDANCE

1. The extraordinary meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy (ARCSE) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20-21 January 1986.

2. The meeting, being the continuation of the Extraordinary meeting which took place from 10 to 12 January 1983 in Addis Ababa was opened by the Chairman of the meeting H.E. Mr. Isidore Nyaboya, Minister of Public Work, Energy and Mines of the Republic of Burundi.

3. The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following members of the Council:

Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zaire and Zambia.

4. Representatives of Algeria, Chad, Ethiopia, France, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania attended the meeting in an observer capacity.

5. The Deputy Executive Secretary, Officer-in-Charge of the Economic Commission for Africa, also attended the meeting, representing the Executive Secretary in his official capacity as a member of the Council and as ex-officio Chairman of the Executive Board.

6. The representative of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity also attended the meeting as a member of the Council.

B. AGENDA

The Second Extraordinary meeting of the Council of ARCSE adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Headquarters of the Centre
   (i) Consideration of the report presented by the ECA secretariat concerning the location of the headquarters of the Centre;

   (ii) Selection of the location of the Centre.

5. Any other business
6. Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting
7. Closure of the meeting.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening addresses

7. In his opening statement the Chairman of the Council recapitulated the development of the ARCSE since the inaugural meeting of the Council which was held from May 12-14, 1982.

8. He said that although that meeting dealt with the other matters of agenda including work programme, budget, procedures for recruitment of staff and appointment of Executive Board, it did not settle the matter dealing with the location of the headquarters of the Centre. This issue was deferred to an extraordinary meeting of the Council which took place from 10-12 January 1983, during which consultations between the member States vying to host the Centre did not bear fruit.

9. The Chairman further stated that Burundi and Libya had consulted and the outcome of the consultations were that Libya had decided to support Burundi to host the Centre. After that he as chairman of the Governing Council took the initiative to contact the ECA secretariat to convene this extraordinary meeting assembled here in Addis Ababa. The Chairman expressed the hope that this meeting would solve the problem of the location of the Centre so that work on the making the Centre operation should start as soon as possible.

10. In his welcome address the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA Mr. M. Tchouta-Moussa expressed delight in being able to participate in the meeting and hoped that the delegates would have fruitful deliberations during the course of the meeting.

11. He also recounted the history of the Centre since its establishment in May 1984 and the events preceeding the Inaugural meeting of the Governing Council. He highlighted the problems of overdependence on conventional sources of energy by African member States. He then said that the establishment of ARCSE is expected to play a major role in alleviating some of the energy problems existing in African member States which have a significant potential in new and renewable sources of energy and are in a particularly good position to develop and utilize them.

12. He also reiterated that for the most African countries non-commercial sector is the largest consumer of energy and hence the one with the most far reaching consequences from conservation point of view, since it is in this sector where the the bulk of wood and wood products are used, both in the rural and urban areas. Widespread and uncontrolled use of wood and wood products has lead to a large scale destruction of forests turning them to deserts or near desert conditions, characterised by soil erosion which in turn causes adverse effects on water tables in the African areas leading to changes in climatic conditions in the area or region. The overall result is large reduction in agricultural production capacity of the given area. He expressed a hope that ARCSE would address these issues as soon as it becomes operational. In conclusion, he pledged ECA assistance in the launching of the Centre so it can live up to the high hopes that the member States placed in the establishment of the Centre.

Election of Officers

13. Since that was the Extraordinary meeting of the Council, the Bureau consisting of Burundi, Djibouti, and Burkina Faso as President, Vice-President and Rapporteur respectively would continue in the office until the next ordinary meeting of the Council. However, as the Rapporteur of the meeting was not present the Council appointed Niger to act as a Rapporteur to the meeting.

Headquarters of the Centre

(a) Consideration of the Report presented by the ECA secretariat, concerning the location of the Headquarters of the Centre (E/ECA/NRD/E/6).

14. A representative of the secretariat introduced the item. He recalled the events that followed the Inaugural Meeting and the convening of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. He said that at the time of Extraordinary meeting of the Council, in January 1983, four member States namely, Burundi, Djibouti, Libyan Arab Jamahiria and the Sudan were the candidates for hosting the Centre. During the meeting, Sudan and Djibouti supported the candidature of Burundi.

15. The Council then directed that two countries: Burundi and Libyan Arab Jamahiria should hold the consultations outside the meeting with the view to reaching an agreement, But when the agreement was not reached the Council made the following decisions:

(a) Consultations should be held at the highest level between the three countries, namely: Burundi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan in order to resolve the deadlock of the choice of the host country;

(b) The Executive Secretary of ECA was requested to assist the three member States in their consultations;

(c) The three member States communicate the results of their consultations to the ECA secretariat within three months and the secretariat of ECA would, in consultation with the Chairman of this Extraordinary meeting of the Council, make arrangements to convene another meeting of the Council to consider the results of the consultation and to resolve the issue of the location:

(d) Should the results of the consultations prove to be negative the Council would be left with no alternative but to resolve the issue by accepting other candidatures and taking a vote to select the host country.

16. During the course of 1983 ECA secretariat received one further candidate, that is Burkina Faso, to host the Centre.

17. In June 1985 that the ECA secretariat received new information from the Embassy of Burundi to Socialist Ethiopia stating that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had decided to support the candidature of Burundi to host ARCSE.

18. On the receipt of this information the ECA Executive Secretary consulted the Chairman of ARCSE and agreed to convene this Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Council from 20-22 January 1986 to specifically look at the question of the location of the Headquarters. In conclusion the representative of ECA added that in its communications to the ECA secretariat the Sudan wished it to be known that it is still interested to host the Centre.

(b) Selection of the location of the Centre

19. During the discussion which followed the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stated that they supported candidature of Burundi to host the Centre and expressed the hope that the Centre will take off as soon as practicable, as too much time had been lost already. However, he expressed his dissapointment that Arabic was not included as one of the working languages of the meetings which took place in the secretariat. He further expressed his hope that such situation would be rectified in the future.

20. The representative of the Sudan also joined the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in supporting the candidature of Burundi to host the Centre. He said although the Sudan was a candidate, in the interest of African co-operation and solidarity the Sudan was happy to support Burundi.

21. After the two interventions from the representatives of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Sudan, the Council supported the candidature of Burundi by unanimous acclamation.

22. The representative of Burundi thanked all the member States for the support, priviledge and honour accorded to Burundi to host ARCSE. He stated that Burundi would do everything in its power to ensure the confidence put in Burundi will be upheld and that the Government of Burundi will live up to the expectations of the host country. He expressed confidence that Burundi will receive every co-operation from member States in its work to make the ARCSE achieve its objectives and functions.

Any other business

(a) Membership and State of Contribution

23. Under any other business a representative of the secretariat introduced a paper dealing with the membership of ARCSE and the state of contributions to the budget as of January 1, 1986. He explained the basis on which the contributions were received from only two countries, that is: Gabon and another unknown country had made their contributions. The table indicating the membership of the Centre and levels of contribution is annexed to this report.

24. Following the introduction of the document the Chairman and the Deputy Executive Secretary appealed to the member States to make their contributions promptly in order to launch the Centre.

(b) Launching of the Centre

25. The Council discussed the steps leading to the launching of the Centre and decided on the following:

(i) to hold the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 19-20 June 1986 (dates to be confirmed after consultations between the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of ECA), in Bujumbura, to discuss questions of the work programme, budget of the Centre, appointment of the core staff and the launching of the Centre;

(ii) ECA should before the end of January 1986 send to each member State the advertisements and job descriptions of the core posts of the Centre (Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and the Heads of six Units), with a view to receiving application from the candidates of the member States by the end of June 1986. ECA secretariat then should present the shortlisted candidates to the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council;

(iii) ECA to continue to sensitize non-member States of ARCSE with the view to making them to join the Centre in persuance of the Resolution 550(XX) adopted by the ECA Conference of Ministers;

(iv) Subject to the decisions at the Second Ordinary Meeting of the Council the suggestion has been made that the launching of the Centre will be on 1 October 1986. In this regard, all the member States are invited to make their contribution to the budget of the Centre before 1 October 1986. Contributions should be deposited to the following account and address:

UNECA Account number 015-001-601
Chemical Bank, United Nations
New York, N.Y. 10017 (USA)

(in case of the direct deposit to the account the Executive Secretary of ECA should be informed);

(vi) Council appointed two new members to the Executive Board: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the Northern subregion and Zambia for the Eastern and Southern African subregion. The composition of the Executive Board will now be as follows:

West Africa: Mali and Nigeria,

North Africa: Sudan and Libyan arab Jamahiriya,

Eastern and Southern Africa: Uganda and Zambia,

Central Africa: Gabon and Burundi.

Consideration and adoption of the report of the meeting

26. After the draft report submitted to the meeting by the Rapporteur had been considered and amended the final report was adopted.

Closure of the meeting

27. After the Chairman thanked the delegates for their co-operation and the positive manner in which they contributed to the meeting he declared the Second Extraordinary meeting of the Council of the African Regional Centre for Solar Energy closed.